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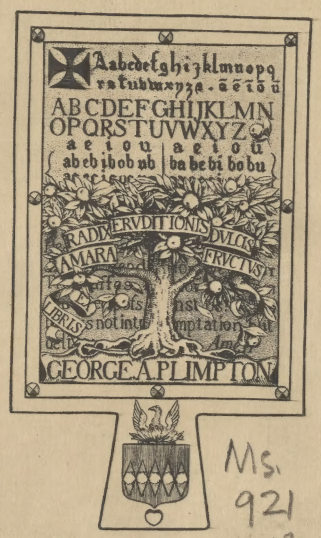

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137 Note at Δ p145

Lord Lymott, though of much superior understanding to the Earl of Morton, condescends to take his cue from him here, without reflecting how much it was at variance with the 12th of Queen Anne. — In a printed tract, which may be concluded to have come out some time between May 1766 & the same month in the following year, this passage is seen. "It will not after this be thought extraordinary, that Mr. Harrison should proceed with some degree of caution, or that he should object to words of an indeterminate meaning being put into the oath tendered to him, about the disclosure of the principles of the Timekeeper &c. lest he should after such discovery be left dependent upon the interpretation of those words, even for the first moiety of his reward. He was required to explain by experimental exhibitions whatever the Commissioners, & whom they should appoint, might desire, & they refused to confine themselves as to those exhibitions, either in point of time, nature, or number. This was the subject of some very disagreeable altercation, which ended in Mr. Harrison's submitting to the oath as tendered to him, under the personal assurance of a noble Lord, then high in office, of its being understood in a reasonable & limited sense, & that his Lordship would undertake for payment of the reward." — This sufficiently indicates the source of all this turmoil; which might well have

"-lution, as there was so knowing what might be demanded
"from it.

"After some time spent in this debate, Mr. Professor Waring proposed that three Workmen should receive the principles from Mr. Harrison, & that these men should not be shopkeepers whose time is taken up by their business, but should be workmen that would execute the work, & spend their whole time in this business. It was asked William Harrison, if he would agree to this proposal of Mr. Waring's. To which he answered in the affirmative, & expressed a great desire how glad he should be to have an opportunity of pursuing so rational a plan. — Both parties seemed very well pleased with this, & William Harrison was desired to name three workmen that he knew would do for this purpose. He declined this, by saying, he should not chuse to nominate them, for fear it might be thought there was, or might be, some collusion between him & those workmen; & indeed he could not at that time recollect three proper persons that he knew would undertake the business: he also added, that the method whereby he should like to make choice of them should be — if they would please to procure work from different hands, & let him see it, & at the same time not let him know who did it, he would by that work tell them whether or not those workmen were, or were not, fit for the purpose." — After some further discussion, not material, "It was proposed (the Journal does not mention by whom) that there should be some noblemen or gentlemen that were acquainted with mechanics, to act in concert with the workmen in recovery the principles of the invention. Two were proposed, for Lord Barrington said, if there were more

have been spared, but for the self-sufficiency of the Manager: these men seeing every thing under their supervision & control of Lord Morton, could not but recollect that the P. R. S. had actually interpreted the explanation intended by the 2d George 3d to signify the making of more Timekeepers & trying them. These were the apprehension of the Claimants, which may seem at first sight too far fetched; They knew that their enemy (for they could not think him otherwise) had been enabled to procure an act of Parliament, of which probably not one member of either House knew the singular origin: & certainly not its subserviency to his private resentment.

Note at ♉ p154 This is not quite consonant to what his Father would have said, whose indignant spirit would have simply asserted to Lord Egmont's offer.

Note at △ p159 A most injurious resolve as regarded the public interest. Not one of the Commissioners understood the subject, & yet, under Lord Morton's instructions, they assumed to know much better than the Inventor what was to be done to bring the Timekeepers into use.

" that five people concerned, he was afraid that no serious
" business could be done. — Mr. Maskelyne said he should
" like to be present when the principles were disclosed, & as
" a commissioner, he thought he had a right to be there,
" therefore he insisted on being present.
" Mr. Hornsby seconded this, & Mr. Shepherd also spoke to the
" same purpose, & the Board all agreed that they had a
" right to be there, & therefore should not be refused. —
" Mr Harrison objected to this, as there would be nothing but confu-
-sion where so many people were concerned. This gave a great
" affront to the Board; & Mr. Harrison was told that he made
" a very bad use of an indulgence which was given; for that
" he had no right to object to any of their proposals, for they
" were by act of Parliament to be satisfied. 1079 was then pro
" posed there should be three workmen, & three gentlemen, to re
-ceive the principles, & workmen were named for this purpose,
" some of whom Mr. Harrison objected to, which gave great
" affront; & he was told they would nominate who they pleased,
" & that it was impertinent in him to object. To which Mr.
" Harrison gave answer, he would not dispute that point with
" them, but he would let come into his house who he pleased.
" — After sometime spent in very warm debates, in the above
" manner, in which Mr. Harrison was very desirous of keeping
" them to the rational plan proposed by Professor Cearing; &
" giving them the strongest sureties of his sincere desire of dis
-covering the principles of his Timekeeper, & oft times dela
-ed that if they would please to tell him what he was to
" do, if it was in his power to do it, he certainly would; & he
" would describe the principles upon oath, &

[redacted] 129 Note at □ ¶ 159 This may justly occasion some astonishment to those who recollect what passed at Barbados.

Note at △ ¶ 148 This was supposing the Claimant had a number of them by him, ready wrought for the purpose, which to watchmakers would be too arbitrary a notion, the construction formation of those springs being one of the most delicate parts of their work. As to the expense, which was no trifle, it is amusing to observe how the constitutional propensity of this Nobleman, — to get exposes the [redacted] labour of others without paying for it, remuneration. if he could; pervades his resolve here, as well as others: unless the readier solution is — that he knew nothing about the matter.

Note at ○ ¶ 160 On combining this with Mr. Ludlam's remarkable opposition to the certificate which his colleagues, at Red Lion Square, were so willing to grant, it has more the appearance of a systematical opposition to the merits of John Harrison than of a casual conjecture. However this might be, his remark was wholly incorrect; for the Inventor could & did make another Timekeeper, after being deprived both of the original & the drawings. But those advantages would have saved

be upon his oath, that he would divulge every thing he knew, provided he was but sure of obtaining the £7,500 when he had done; but that he might never know when he had done, from the words "experimental ex-"hibitions." — All arguments on his side he found were in vain — so that Mr. John Harrison declared to the Board, he never would comply with the words "experi-"mental exhibitions," without they would please to tell him what they meant by those words. But as the Board gave for answer, they would never be confined; he then gave them in the following paper, in answer to their resolutions, & then withdrew.

My Lords & Gentlemen

On Tuesday [the 28th] I received, by the hands of my Son, your Resolutions on that day; the first of which is what I thought you would demand; therefore my Son was commissioned to comply with it.

The first part of the second Resolution (viz:) that I shall give a further explanation by word of mouth, may also be complied with; but it must be mentioned to whom I am to give this further explanation, for I will never attempt to explain it to the satisfaction of the Commission-ers & who they may appoint; nor will I ever come under the direction of men of theory. — As to the other part of this, your second Resolution, viz. "Experimental exhibitions "where judged necessary, relative to the said Watch; pro-"ducing the same, taking it to pieces, & answering upon "oath to every question proposed by the Board, & such persons

to p. 107

him more than a third of the time he was occu-
-pied without them; so that the enormality of harrassing
so unnecessarily this eminent genius at his age (72) becomes
a national reproach which the descendants of the parties
implicated in so foul a stain, would desire to avert. Nothing
could be more at variance with the public interests than the
course they pursued; originating there is too much reason to
conclude in the ill informed self-sufficiency of the Earl of Morton.

Note at W p 160 Mr. Mudge should have seen, it was
correctly the reverse — that he was not required to make
the same thing from the same thing; but to make it from
nothing, as before. — The remark came with an ill grace
from one who was afterwards himself a candidate for Par
-liamentary rewards, &, according to the Continuators of
Dr. Rees, the resemblance between some of the improvements
in his Timekeepers, & those of John Harrison was too great to
be thought accidental. Our Claimant never having served an
apprenticeship to a clock, or watchmaker, his methods were
sui generis, his own, & could not be properly appreciated
by the Trade.

"as may be appointed by them for the examination thereof."
"These are terms which I cannot comply with."

"As to your third Resolution, that I certainly
"will comply with when I have got my just reward."

"I cannot help thinking I am extremely ill used by Gov-
"-ernment whom I might have expected a different treatment
"from; for if the Act of the 12th of Queen Anne be deficient, why
"have I so long been encouraged under it, in order to bring my
"invention to perfection? And, after the completion, why was
"my Son sent twice to the West Indies? Had it been said to
"my Son when he received the last instructions, there will in
"case you succeed be a new Act at your return, in order to lay
"you under new restrictions, which were not thought of in the
"Act of the 12th of Queen Anne; I say, had this been the case, I
"might have expected some such treatment as I now meet with.

"It must be owned that my case is very hard, but I
"hope I am the first, and, for my Country's sake shall be the
"last that suffers by pinning my faith on an English Act of
"Parliament. Had I received my just reward, for certainly it
"may be so called, after 40 years close application in the improve-
"-ment of that talent which it had pleased God to give me,
"then my invention would have taken the course which all im-
"provements in this world do; that is, I must have instructed
"workmen in its principles & execution, which I should have
"been glad to had an opportunity of doing; but how widely
"this is different from what is proposed. Viz. for me to instruct
"people that I know nothing of, & such as may know nothing
"of mechanicks: & if I do not make them understand to their
"satisfaction, I may then have nothing! Hard fate indeed to me,
"but still harder to the world, which may be deprived of this my

741 Note at ○ ¶165 It can scarcely be credited, that Mr. Mudge junior, with a view to extenuate any defects, that might be found, in his father's Timekeepers, very seriously tells you, he was near sixty, when he commenced the work, but that younger men would be able to complete them better. He wrote so incidentally, & without knowing that his remark was equivalent to the curse of heaven on those who could treat a man above twelve years older in the manner described.

Note at □ ¶177 This must have been in compliance with the habits of Lord Morton; for John Harrison knew full well, that no man can swear to more than the best of his belief, in such a case, or that he has exerted himself to the utmost of his power.

Note at △ ¶187 My Lord's expression in speaking of John Harrison & his son, at the Board very different from the sentiment of the Marquis of Huntley (according to Blackwood) who having seated himself at table next the Ettrick Shepherd, who was probably disconcerted at the honour, explained, by saying, "the highest of all rank is that conferred by genius."

invention; which must be the case, except by my open & free manner of describing all the principles of it to gentlemen & workmen who, almost at all times have had free recourse [access] to see my instruments, & if any of the workmen shall have been so ingenious as to have got my invention, how far you will please to reward them for their piracy must be left for you to determine; & I must sit myself down in old age, & thank God I can be more easy in that I have made the conquest, though I have no reward, than if I had come short of the matter, and by some delusion had the reward."

I am

Lords & Gentlemen

your humble servant

May 30th 1765 John Harrison

"Some time after they were again called in, & Mr Harrison hearing nothing about the paper which he had given in, nor of the Resolutions which this paper was an answer to, thought therefore that this paper had occasioned them to alter their minds, & he was soon confirmed in this opinion by their offering other proposals, which were agreed to by both parties, and were as follows, Viz. That Lord Charles Cavendish, the Revd Mr Michell, the Revd Mr Ludlam, Mr Mudge watchmaker; Mr Matthews watchmaker, & Mr Kendal watchmaker, be desired to receive the principles of Mr Harrison's invention; & in case any of the first three gentlemen shall decline, then Mr Bird shall be desired to fill up such vacancy. If any of the last three shall decline, then Mr Vulliamy watchmaker shall be desired to supply the place.

142 Note at ○ ¶189 This must have been Sir John Cust, who never succumbed to the perfectability of the Manager, but expected the treatment the claimant received experienced from him. It could only have been through his intervention that John Harrison was principally indebted for his knowledge of the opinion of the law officers of the crown; for to consult such expensive counsel as an individual, was remotely beyond his contemplation, or his means pocket; but Sir John or any of the Commissioners Board could apply to them on public ground for their official opinion. — This reference however would have "made the galled jade wince" — short & pour: It would have been coming to extremities with the overbearing character who disgraced the proceedings of the Commissioners, who, in the plenitude of his power & his presumption would have told our Mechanician he had no occasion for his knowledge of law, or of acts of Parliament; that he had nothing to do but to conform to his duty — which the Board would take care to inform him of.

Continuation of text at □ ¶197

was deported with him in the application to Parliament. Did they all dislike to be joined with such a fellow labourer? or, where is the reason to be sought? He certainly desired no associate, for as it was his for ever petty ambition to engross all power & consequence to himself; with

"That these six Gentlemen shall go to Mr. Harrison's house [in Red Lion Square] to have the principles of his Timekeep-
"-er explained to them. That Mr. Harrison shall take the
"Timekeeper to pieces before them, & explain all its parts.
"That he shall go regularly through the explanation of
"the whole instrument, and if in this process there shall
"happen to be any thing which these Gentlemen do not under-
"-stand, then Mr. Harrison shall be put upon his oath, & explain
"the same upon his oath, ~~and explain the same upon oath~~
"and that shall be satisfactory. That these Gentlemen shall
"attend at Mr. Harrison's day after day, without interruption,
"till they have gone through the whole instrument; and
"shall at all times during this whole process have liberty
"to ask what questions they think proper; and, if they
"shall think necessary, Mr. Harrison shall answer the same
"upon oath.

"That the Commissioners of Longitude or any part
"of them shall, or may, be present at these meetings, but no
"person on any account is to touch any thing, for fear of
"doing harm. Mr. Harrison having gone through the whole in-
"-strument in this manner, these six Gentlemen shall make
"their report to the Board of Longitude; who shall upon
"their report grant to Mr. Harrison the certificate for £
"7,500. And the Gentlemen are to be upon oath, not to di-
"vulge the invention to any one, till they shall have
"leave from the Board of Longitude. And the Commissioners
"also were to be upon their honour not to tell it till they
"had given Mr. Harrison an opportunity to make what he
"could of other powers. — These terms (as said above) were
"agreed to by both parties, & every thing seemed quite well

or without the concurrence of his colleagues, made no difference, if he could swagger with impunity: for it can-not be a moment supposed that any Commissioner, how hostile to the Claimant, would have openly sanctioned the authoritative & contumelious message by Mr. Gray, which none but a coxcomb of the first water could have devised.

Note at Δ p 214-15 He was of the first distinction in chronometry at Paris, & latterly a member of the French Board of Longitude — a circumstance well worth mentioning, from its dispensibility to the method of pursuing the same objects here. Did our Neighbours then desire to profit by the incongruity which left the Mechanics unrepresented & their interests disregarded at the meetings of the Commissioners. The disgraceful treatment the Claimant received became known on the Continent, & subsequently (in 1773) you learn that "the offers made him & his Son, by foreign Powers, "have been frequent & liberal."

settled. — Lord Egmont desired that no notice might be taken of what had passed, but that all might be amicable and agreeable; & added, that if he could be of any service, & should be in the country, that he would at any time, on receiving a letter, come directly to London. And Lord Morton added, that though he was going into Scotland, yet if he could be of any service, he would stay 12 months before he went. — Mr. Harrison, on his part, assured the Commissioners that he would act with the greatest openness and honour, & was very glad that they had now given him an opportunity of making the invention known, without running any risk of losing this part of the reward; and did assure them that he would do all in his part."

The singular sequel of this report, in which the President of the Royal Society claims a discovery in mechanics, but without in the least explaining it, was given at page 67.

"On Thursday June 13th the Board, according to adjournment again, when, after sometime spent, Messrs. Harrison were called in. — Lord Egmont desired the Secretary to read the minutes of the last Board. — The Secretary read, and as soon as he stopped, Mr. William Harrison said to Lord Egmont — I think there is some mistake. To which Lord Egmont replied, no, there is not. Mr. Harrison then said, asking your Lordships pardon, I think there is, — did not your Lordship desire the secretary to read the minutes of the last Board? Which he answered he did. Mr. Harrison then replied, my Lord, what the secretary read was the Resolutions of the Board before the last. Lord Egmont said, they are the Resolutions of the last

144 Note at △ ¶ 218 It is scarcely necessary to repeat here — that unless the tampering, or collusion, with the Clock could likewise be prevented, his Lordship's rules prove nothing but his [redacted] the poverty of his intellect,

This Note to be omitted in the Minor Edition

Note at □ ¶ 242 Being a repetition of the principal points in the complainants case, it is omitted here, but will be found in the Appendix N°

Note at ○ ¶ 246 The absurdity of such a train of precautions as Lord Morton projected for the examination of the Timekeeper, while the clock was left entirely out of the question, was absurdly ridiculous when the Astronomer Royal was regarded by John Harrison as his sworn enemy & rival; but under different circumstances, either with respect to the Clock, or the Watch, he could & would rely on the fair dealing of his neighbour, & felt not that anxiety with which he had been oppressed while a scrutiny, to be reported to the public (if unfavourable) was going on, for which his enemies had the meanness to take him wholly unprepared. — There was no necessity, at Richmond, for a scrupulous observance of those forms (except as regarded the meridian hour) the neglect of which at Hampstead Hill, in the instance of the clock, was held up by the Author to [redacted]

Board. Mr. Harrison again said, I ask your Lordship's pardon, but they are the Resolutions of the Board before last, and I have them here in my hand. — To which Lord Egmont answered, It is true these minutes were made at the Board before the last, but you agreed to them at the last Board, which confirmed them, & so they became the minutes of the last Board. — Mr. Harrison then replied, I never did agree to them, and, to prove which, I refer you to the answer my Father gave in to those Resolutions. — Lord Egmont then said, your Father never gave in any answer. Mr. Harrison then insisted upon it that he did, & he now referred them to the answer. — Lord Egmont then said, where is the answer? — Professor Nornsby then said, my Lord, Mr. Harrison sen.r did, in an abrupt & scandalous manner, throw a paper on the table at the last Board. Ex 127 Δ
Mr. Harrison here interrupted Mr. Nornsby, & told him that his Father said, he did not throw it on the table, but gave it into the hands of Lord Barrington. Mr. Nornsby then said, Lord Barrington might perhaps lay it on the table. Here again Mr. Harrison interrupted him, & told him that he thought he ought to be a little more careful what he said; for it made a great difference in his Father's character, whether he threw the paper on the table in an abrupt, scandalous manner, or whether he gave it into Lord Barrington's hands. — Mr. Nornsby took no notice of this, but said, I believe, my Lord, that Lord Barrington kept this paper from being read at the Board entirely out of the regard which he had for Mr. Harrison: for I do assure your Lordship it is the strangest paper that ever was seen. Here Lord Morton said, then I should think that, for his own sake, Mr. Harrison would not desire such a paper should be read; for I do assure your Lordship, if it is, you will hear such a confused peice of jargon, as, I believe, you never heard before. And you will see from it that who-

145 unqualified [redacted] & to merited contempt, as he thinks. The present examination, in this point of view, coincided with that assiduous observance so necessary & desirable to be preserved towards the [redacted] King, or his agent.

Insert in the text at ◺ p 253 after Boswell — added lat-terly by the industry & tact of Mr. Croker.

[redacted] Note contained at □ 253 — If the reputed story of the Doctor's stand-ing a few hours bareheaded at a book-stall in [redacted] foul weather, by way of [redacted] penance for his former offence to his father, is placed in juxta position with the only denial of the King for days, weeks & even months pending [redacted] the present concern, can the biographers of the omitter of Inverch find much to approve in the first instance, without acknowledging far more commendation due to the Monarch [redacted] thus exposed by humane & beneficial purposes, which called for most of the virtues that do honour to the cottage as well as to the palace. to ++611 for the Append.x N 7 [redacted]

Note at ++ p 250 The surprising neglect in not remov-ing these loadstones, neither the King nor William Mar-rison appear to have thought otherwise than entirely ac-cidental. It did not interrupt the civilities that passed between the family of the latter & the young [redacted] father of Dr.

-ever drew it up cannot express their own minds; & I am sure we can never expect to get any thing from such sort of people. — Mr. Shepherd & Mr. Maskelyne then spoke much to the same purpose; and said it would be much to Mr. Harrison's honour to have the paper concealed. But Lord Egmont then replied, where is the paper? On which the Secretary produced, & Lord Egmont read it, & expressed great anger at most parts of it. And said, this being the case, I do not see that we can make any thing of it. And then asked Mr. Harrison if he would, or would not, come to their re-solutions of the 28th. of May. To which Mr. Harrison said, he would, provided they would let him know what they meant by the words, "experimental exhibitions" — for in his opinion the words might mean the making of a hundred more Timekeepers or nobody knows what. Lord Egmont then told Mr. Harrison that they only meant by it, the manner of tempering metals. To which Mr. Harrison replied, then please to put it so. No, says my Lord, we will not be confined. — Mr. Harrison was then desired to give a positive an-swer whether he would, or not, agree to these resolutions. Mr. John Harrison then told the Board that "so long as he had a "drop of English blood in his body, he would not comply with "their resolutions, without they would explain them." He & his Son then left the room; and, a little time after, being call-ed again, Mr. William Harrison went in; & the Board then told him, if he would take the following oath, every thing should still be quite easy & settled; and Lord Egmont desired Mr. Harrison to look it over.

Westminster to wit

I William Harrison do swear that the annexed drawings and written paper contain

 Demaisbury, ~~with the Gothic notions & recollection~~

The probable cause of an oversight so totally ruinous as it might have proved, to the scrutiny commenced was, that the Doctor being subject to ~~violent~~ fits of the gout, & his son (a gentleman about the age of thirty) attending for him at those times, the urgency of an attack from that malady prepared the recollection of the Astronomer so much as to lead to this deficiency in the instructions he would give his representative: at the same time it becomes a remarkable illustration of the truism — on what casual incidents the most momentous concerns of an individual, & inclusively those of the public, often depend.

Note from Δ ≻ 248 Some remarks on this man's works seemed called for, but as the note would have reached an inconvenient length, & might have drawn attention from the surprising self-command which gave occasion for it, it was transferred to the Appx. N. — By the way we would stimulate the researches of Mr. Croker to find a parallel to this attractive incident either in the biography of Johnson or any other celebrated moralist. conspicuous moralist.

~~Note at ⊙ 270~~ ~~Neither Sir George nor Mr. Burke had the least idea that it was formed for a person so~~ to ~~+ + 146~~

~~be [illegible] eminently of the [illegible]~~

a full explanation of the principles upon which my Father's Watch, or Timekeeper, for discovering the Longitude is constructed. And I further do swear that I will give to the Commissioners appointed by Act of Parliament for the discovery of the Longitude at Sea, and to the six persons named in the margin, who have been chosen by them to be present at the discovery, such further explanations by word of mouth, and by experimental exhibitions, where judged necessary, as shall be required of me, relative to the construction of the said Watch, or Timekeeper; & that I will produce the same, and in case of my Father's indisposition, I will take it to pieces, and answer truly to every question proposed by the said Commissioners, & the other persons above mentioned, or any of them relative thereto.

Rev.d John Michell
Rev.d Wm. Ludlam
Mr. John Bird
Mr. Thomas Mudge
Mr. Wm. Matthews
Mr. Larcum Kendal

Mr. Harrison having read it, said, — There are two words in this oath — Lord Morton interrupted him, & said, stop, stop, stop, Sir, you were not desired to pull it to pieces; you were only desired to look at it, and to tell us whether, or not, you will take that oath, & therefore you have no business to say any thing about it — only to answer to the question asked you; that is, will you, or will you not; & your answer is only to be, Yes, or No. To which Mr. Harrison answered, No. — Mr. Nornsby then moved, that the proceedings of these Boards should be published, that the world might not be imposed on. It was seconded, & soon after the Board rose up.

The official account says, they voted, nem. con. to publish the minutes of their proceedings since the ~~last Act~~

from ☐ page 134 carried the measure; notwithstanding the letter differed nothing in principle from what might be put forth by some Government contractor, who, ten or twenty years ago, engaged to supply the ordnance, or the victualing office, or some other department with serviceable articles, warranted according to the samples approved of, or specific terms. But at length finding himself sinner, he prays, by his petition, to be remunerated prospectively, or retrospectively, or, as it might be. to ~~O~~ page 153

It would not have been easy to select an instance more one versa to the preceding than the case of our Mechanic. He wasted no deviation from the contract, but, on the contrary, complained with great much reason of the non observance of it, that the Board of Longitude voted the Timekeeper not to have succeeded within the farthest limits of the Act, & refused to let him know the grounds of a decision totally at variance with the assertion of every seaman on the books of the Deptford, or the Merlin from the captain in command to the captain of the Foreastle. — The Committee of the Commons admitted verbally the sinister treatment he had received, but in practice they gave him no redress, for — "if the "poor man spoke, they say — what follow is this? and "if he stumble, they will help to overthrow him." — Which

that, that, to wit, which Lord Morton in his ostentatious mes-
sage by Mr. Grey claimed as his own affair, ~~& in which it~~
~~may be seen he had, as far as practicable, embodied his re~~
verse for having been defeated in enforcing his wild con-
struction of the seperate commission bills. Without a pre-
vious knowledge of the circumstances under which the Act
on under discussion originated it was impossible the
roceedings at the meetings subsequently to the passing
f that measure could be rightly appreciated by the
ublic. — On February 9th (1765) says the account, "Mr. Harri-
son's Memorial, which was laid before the last Board, was
again read. The Earl of Morton then read, & explained to the
Board, the proceedings of himself & the other Commissioners
appointed by Act of Parliament to receive the Discovery
which Mr. Harrison had proposed to make of the principles
of his Timekeeper previous to his Sons last voyage to the
West Indies." — That the proceedings were those of himself was
perfectly correct, but when he pretended they were also those
of the other Commissioners, which would have shown them as
ignorant of common business as he was, it is sur-
prising no Gentleman present had the sagacity to ask
his Lordship — from what funds the workmen were to be
paid, that by the first & the fifth of his resolutions were to be
set on making more tools & more Timekeepers? Had this untoward gaucherie

was just fulfilled almost to the letter, when with an inattention wholly out of character in a deliberative assembly they rendered the 12th of Lincoln's Amendment a dead nullity letter, to gratify the selfish consequence & pettiness see below

text extracted from p 147

an assumption which never met the public eye, though most

from above

cunning of an Individual, who, unlike John Harrison, who came into the world being destined to benefit mankind, might have been classed with the offensive vapours that issued from Pandora's box.

~~from 1 \ p 146~~

~~filing of the offensive & exemplary examination of those Commissioners, the secret and Lord Lindsey's unmate conversation to the Throne, who, if not design, yet from instead of endeavoring their own honour thus invited, yet Lord the author Peer, without to inquire, to indulge his resentment for an unknown slight, could have elected some correction, for the largest statesman that would have shone through the metropolis, & been eventually disposed to the confines of the nation.~~

of the summer, they

~~Commissioners, a special Jury would probably have acquitted~~
~~with the opinion of the learned P.R.S. whose effusion~~
~~and the Candidate's satisfactory in not conducing to the~~
~~cause of his inventive ingenuity, in forming fanciful theories~~
~~& [illegible]~~

~~Though~~ These transactions soon found their way into the Gentleman's Magazine, the Annual Register, & other periodicals of the time; but from the necessary illustrations which the resolutions in reference would have furnished being withheld the conductors of those works were not aware that the words "experimental exhibitions" which the Claimant so strongly objected to, & "the tempering his springs", after which he would hear no more: were transferred, the former, it may be seen, from the oath he was required to take; the latter from the fourth of the resolutions which Lord Morton brought ready prepared to the first meeting of the arbitrator commissioners. It was thus. "That Mr. Harrison do explain the method by which he tempers his Metals, particularly his Springs, or Worms; and shew the experiment of tempering a number of them at once, in presence of the said Commissioners, or a major part of them." — This from any other quarter might have have been passed by, but from the Earl of Morton, who he thought substituted affectation for knowledge, & whose whole business was display, which he could not indulge better than by entertaining in engagements of so much latitude of meaning, as

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the two comprehensive words favoured, it was very different. He saw that the rest of the Commissioners were controlled by the trunk of the scientific elephant, whose tusks it behoved him to guard against: & this, if we may follow the metaphor, will account for his exasperation at being harassed by the clumsy animal.

"Genius is commonly attended with strong passions, & passion makes people humourists," says Sterstone. But John Harrison, though one of those homines centenarii destined to administer to the essential wants of mankind in the civilized portion of the earth; & who, by the surpassing improvements he achieved in a science equally necessary to astronomy & navigation, acquired a reputation commensurate with his labours; was a quiet & inoffensive man in the ordinary relations of life; a peaceable neighbour, & not wont to betray more impatience in controlling his family than the occasion called for. — If he seems of a contrary spirit in the present case, it was because he imputed (with reason) the dishonourable breach of faith he experienced in the instance of Lord Sandwich's tautological assurance, entirely to the bustling consequence, & mean revenge, of the Earl of Morton. His whole mind being impressed by the injury, he could not without the most indignant contempt contemplate the frustration of the labour of all the prime of his life

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by such as inimitable petit maître. — The hinge on which the whole affair turned, the corner stone on which it rested, was indeed this memorable assurance, which stuck to our mechanician the rest of his life; & yet though the insertion of it, by means of a note, or otherwise, was indispensably necessary as an addendum to the published minutes of their two last meetings, if they were not afraid of being openly upbraided with so foul a stain on their proceedings, all mention of an item so important in balancing their report with the public was studiedly suppressed. We say so, because the transaction could not be simultaneously forgotten by seven eight persons — among whom was Professor Horsley, on whose motion their present proceedings were published — which were of course designed to show that the Commissioners were considerate in their management of the business, & deserved praise for their moderation; that the Claimant was passionate without cause, &c. But John Harrison (we have said) was not an ill-tempered man; and had they only enacted their Manager's impracticable resolutions under the act, 3 George 3. as a corollary to those which, though given in their collective capacity, were exclusively his (for no man could interfere in any business he took on himself) there would have been no mystery in the sorness the discoverer of the Longitude showed at "temper-

Note at Δ p 278 It can be of little interest, but as having been advised from such a quarter, it goes at N in the App.

as has been observed, in a case on

-pering the springs." As it was, his declaration that "so long as he had a drop of English blood in his body, he would not comply with their resolutions;" — being printed without the context, which was, "unless they would explain them;" false idea was created; his main objection arising from their refusal to affix a definitive construction to the two words so often repeated. — In their minutes they state "that with regard to experimental exhibitions, to which he seemed to make so much objection, all that the Board meant thereby was that in case there should be any particular operations relating to the construction of his Timekeeper, which could not be sufficiently explained by words, so as to convey a full & clear idea of the method of executing the same, in such case, the Board would expect to see the operation performed, or the experiment performed. The method of tempering his springs was instanced, as one of those operations, or experiments; & it was supposed there might be others."

If the Author may judge from having been present, when a child, at the operation of tempering the balance spring of the last made Timekeeper, the President of the Royal Society was unfortunate in selecting it, as one which could not be fully understood, or conveyed by words: for it consisted in holding it immersed in a preparation of melted lead & tin two or three minutes.

That the Commissioners of Longitude, ~~in case of~~ which £~~20,000~~ 17,500 depended, should without the least examination or enquiry have "pinned their faith" on the statement of the Earl of Morton, that the Candidate had refused

unqualified reprobation

Royal, Nathaniel Bliss,

entitled at least

to conform to the provisions of the act, the 13th George 3.
though he had done no such thing; & that they should
adopt ulterior measures in consequence, ostensibly under
the public plea, but in reality subservient to the ven-
geance of this nobleman; & were, as regarded seven, eight of
their number, at the expence of violating their pledge, given
by Lord Sandwich, would, if thrown into the form of a case
in equity, have drawn from the twelve Judges the most
[illegible]. — The naval Gentlemen & the Ci-
vilians could plead disinterestedness, & seem only cul-
pable by their indolence & inattention, but it was ve-
ry different with the party to whom the late Astronomer
A. M. was the organ; & who, on very dubious grounds
thought, or endeavoured to think, his Successor at least
entitled to share the reward with our Claimant. With the
sentiments of the lunar party our Northern peer chimed
in unison, without knowing it. He deserved well of these
scientific chapmen, who, it is not treasonable to sup-
pose sold him flattery, like the goose in the Gaper's fable, for
the nourishment he gave their hopes — not only so, the
solid proof" he interposed now, promised to screen them from
the odium of dealing unjustly by the Candidate with
which they were often reproached after the Jamaica
voyage.

~~[illegible]~~ quaff a few pleasant potations to the health of their, ~~but noble~~ ~~noble ill informed~~ noble, but ill informed

since

Note at △ p 113 To prevent misapprehension, the Author would not be understood to object to the Commissioners desiring to insure the disclosure of the Invention before payment of the reward, & for that purpose with that view adopting any fair legitimate precaution, but it is evident their proceedings were bottomed on the discreditable & wholly unfounded statement — that the Claimant had refused to explain to the separate commission.

Sept 9th Leaving the Lunar party to [redacted]
[redacted] agent, we return to the contest for pre-eminence
between this long forgotten [redacted] P. R. S. and John Harrison, whose
name will probably be remembered while our language lasts —
those friends concluding that, whatever might be the merits of
the question in an abstract view, it was hopeless to suppose the
Ward would ever be accessible, if his high spirit could not
be controlled by a necessity that left him no alternative;
since the publication of the [redacted] Board, by the
explanations being [redacted] written, made out a decent case for the world,
dictated a letter for him, which being supported by his
wife (who was a clever woman) & it is not unlikely, aided by
the distress of his Daughter, was forwarded to the Admiralty
previous to the next meeting of the Commissioners on July 13th.
— was thus. —

"My Lords & Gentlemen

"Having seen a printed account of the Proceedings of the honourable Board of Longitude, and that the honourable Board have resolved, that by my refusal to comply with the terms proposed by them, they do not think themselves authorized to give me any certificate, or that it is to any purpose to treat with me any further upon the matter, till I alter my present sentiments.

"I humbly beg leave to prevent any mistakes, to mention in writing, my sentiments to this honourable Board; which

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Author Note from ⊗ & page 147 No personality, the Author hopes, will be imputed to the comparison he has drawn. He is totally unacquainted with the Athol family, or their connections. To vindicate his motives, & his desire to avoid exciting the resentment or acrimony of any respectable aristocrat, he adds — he is not quite prepared to say, he should not have acted as the Duke of Athol thought proper to do, if placed under similar circumstances.

Note at △ & 26 There is indeed one mode of extenuating their conduct; but so discreditable to these savans, that it might be thought better left out of sight. Was their own inspection of these important papers so superficial & hurried, like a matter of form, that they forgot at the moment, it was not to be expected the Candidate would sit down in the same comfortable indolence?

Note at □ & 220 This arose from John Harrison not having been accustomed to watch-work, but to that of clocks which being on a much larger scale, of course did not require so much delicacy in the finishing, & management.

are and always were (however unfortunately misunderstood) that I shall always be ready to give a full discovery of the principles & construction of my Timekeeper; which, if this honourable Board thinks proper, I will still do, by drawings, and explanations in writing; & I will also explain on oath, or make any experiments which of the six Gentlemen appointed by the Board may think necessary; a time being limited when I shall be entitled to receive one moiety of the reward, which I apprehend myself justly entitled to, by the statute of the 12th. of Queen Anne. And I hope you will not either think me, or my Son, wanting in respect to the Commissioners, in refusing to undertake what we did not know whether it was in our power to perform; much less can I be blamed, if I refuse an oath the terms of which I do not understand, but seems to me to be an obligation to make any experiments which may be required of me, by any of the honourable Commissioners, or who they may appoint, without specifying what such experiments are, or where, or when they are to be made. And if in my letters to this honourable Board, there are any expressions which may have given offence, I hope the honourable Board will consider that my time has been so fully employed in obeying their commands, that I am unacquainted with the proper terms of address, & rather do justice to the integrity of my sentiments, than blame the coarse manner in which they are expressed, & judge me by my works, & not by my writings.

I am
Lords & Gentlemen
your humble servant
John Harrison

July 18th. 1765.

 The successful Timekeeper gave the first occasion for trying his hand on such a reduced size. — Some consideration will also be had by every person of common humanity for the unavoidably impaired sight, consequent of age, to those who are not nearsighted in youth; & although he was not paralytic, yet left standing of hand is the usual concomitant of increasing years. — It was observed (page) that Mr. Mudge desiring to bespeak some indulgence for his father, actually referred to his being near sixty when he commenced his undertaking. When to such impediments hindrances are is added, that our Claimant was occasionally subject to the gout, who can repress a mingled sentiment of contempt & detestation for the privileged barbarian who refused him all manner of facilities; after having required this injured man by his own bill to make two more Timekeepers when he was above twelve years older than the last named Candidate.

William

Note at O 236 The Commissioners, to wit, not one of whom understood the subject. — The expensive parts the Author believes principally respected the cost, & yet more, the labour of preparing the jewellery. John Harrison was not the first person who that made use of these male-

William Harrison attended this Board, where, after sometime, he was called in, & told by Lord Egmont they had received another letter from his Father, which was still as before — equivocating, & nothing conclusive in it. He told his Lordship, he was very sorry that he should think so; for he did apprehend it was very plain to be understood. — Lord Egmont replied, in great rage. Is not here a blank in it, & how can that be conclusive? Mr. Harrison replied, that is left for this Board to fill up, because my Father would not dictate the number; but let that number be what you please. If you will please to tell me what it shall be, I will directly fill up the blank. To which Lord Egmont replied, we will not hear you talk. The question is, will you, or will you not, take the oath we have offered you; for so it shall be. We have printed it, & will not alter. Mr. Harrison replied, what, take an oath? I do not understand. — Lord Egmont then again said, Sir, I have told you that we will not hear you talk, & we will not; for you are the strangest & most obstinate creature I ever met with; and would you but do what we want you to do, and which is in your power to do, I will give you my word, I will give you my honour, nay, I will give you the money, if you will but do it. — To which Harrison replied, your Lordship offers such terms as I cannot refuse; for it is the money that I want, & this being the case, I will then make no bargain at all, but entirely throw myself under your Lordships protection, & wholly submit it to your Lordship. — This Lordship then replied, I will not allow that, because that is casting a

-vals, but he adopted them more extensively than had been the case before, both to lessen friction in the Timekeepers, and, as he says, to give them a durability for ages. — The difficulty of adjustment was incident to those of Mr. Mudge as well as John Harrison's our Claimants, & could only be overcome by practice. — Mr. Kendall's opinion, in the conclusion of his declaration, being opposed to that of the Claimant, we pass it by for the present.

New paragraph

at ☐ ✗241 The Claimants method of trial referred to above was originally submitted to the Commissioners on April 11th 1767, prefaced with — "Your Memorialist does not presume to dictate the mod of trial, "but he humbly submits the following one to your con-"-sideration." — Blanks being left to be filled up as the Board might chuse, it thus appears.

"That the two Timekeepers be placed in some "house within the cities of London or Westminster, in which "a meridian shall be ascertained & in which a Transit "instrument, & a regulator, are or shall be provided; "That the room in which they are placed, as well as the "boxes containing them, shall be under locks, the keys "whereof shall be in the possession of the Persons "appointed by the Board, & in the hands of Persons
-sion was not the first person who [illegible]

stur against all the other Members of the Board. — Mr. Harri-
-son replied, I never intended to stur the other Members of this
Board. — Lord Egmont then said, if you will take the oath, and
will let us know that your Father will, I do assure you that no
difficulties shall be thrown in your way; nor shall you be teased
with impertinent questions; but the questions shall be from the
majority of the Gentlemen present; & any experiments that may be
thought necessary shall also be desired by the majority present;
and shall not take up more time than is set forth in the Act, but
all shall cease at the expiration of the Act: & you shall be cer-
-tain of your money then, & as much sooner as you can get
through your business; & if any body should attempt to teaze you,
or perplex you, let me know it, & I will immediately call a Board
& set it right, & give you the money. — Mr. Harrison then said, it
was very hard that he must be forced to take an oath which he did
not understand, but was obliged to do it; otherwise he found he must
have nothing, but that he would say no more about it, but leave
it all entirely to his Lordship. — Lord Egmont then desired him to go
& acquaint his Father with it, & bring word back that day to Mr. Ib-
betson, whether he would take the oath, or not. In order that Mr. Ib-
betson might write to the six Gentlemen, to attend to receive the Inves-
titure, and, if his Father did agree to it, that they were to come in
the next day, to take the oath in the Evening.

"Mr. William Harrison waited on Mr. Ibbetson with the
following letter from his Father.

"Sir

"My Son having acquainted me with the sentiments
of the honourable Commissioners of the Longitude, that the time
limited for my making experiments shall not exceed that men-
-tioned in the Act of Parliament, & that nothing shall be required

"named by your Memorialist; that the Timekeepers shall
"be daily visited by the said Persons, or (in case of
"sickness, or other cause of absence) by Persons appoint-
"ed by them respectively, for such time as shall be
"deemed an ample allowance for a voyage to the West
"Indies: & if, during the said time, neither of them shall
"be found erroneous beyond the nearest limits prescrib-
"ed by the Act of the 12. of Queen Anne, then your
"Memorialist shall immediately receive the remain-
"der of his reward."

"Your Memorialist begs leave to represent
"his desire of joining in all reasonable measures for
"bringing his Invention into general use; & therefore —
"— He humbly prays the concurrence of this honour-
"able Board in an application to Parliament for that
"purpose."

This urgency will not appear singular, if it be observed that the Act to amend & plain &c. having left the ~~[illegible]~~ number of the Timekeepers, & their Trial to the discretion of the Commissioners for the <u>time being</u>, it was apprehended no resolution of the present Board would be binding on a future one — an uncertainty of so much importance, that it could only be done away in the mode he solicits. — This equivocal expression should be added to the many proofs of Lord Morton's incapacity, as the Author is willing to suppose the Blunder rather casual accidental than premeditated, but

of me but what is in my power to perform; & that what exper-iments are to be made, is to be determined by the majority of the Gentlemen who are to be present. I willingly consent thereto; as being entirely agreable to my intention of giving the fullest satisfaction to the Public. But I humbly hope, if an oath is required of me, that there shall be a few words inserted therein — That I will do what is required, provided I am able, & that it is to be done within the time limited by the last Act of Parliament. I am, Sir

your very humble servt.

John Harrison

Red Lion Square
July 18th. 1765

The next day, July 19th. John Harrison & his son, at 4 o'clock went to the Admiralty according to appoint-ment; when they with Mr [afterwards Sir George] Cockburne & Mr. Stephens, who were desired by the Board of Longitude to tender the oath to them. William Harrison again ex-postulated with them on the absurdity of taking an oath which they did not comprehend; which was also in itself tautology, nor could they tell whether it was, or not, in their power to fulfil it. For they were first to swear that they gave a full explanation, & then to swear they would give a further explanation, & to answer truly to every ques-tion proposed by the said Commissioners & the other Per-sons named by them, or any of them relative thereto. Mr. Ibbetson also read the above letter from John Harri-son. But all the answer that Mr. Cockburne & Mr. Stephens would give, was, that they were not empowered to alter a syllable; though they allowed it certainly might have

it may justly excite amazement that any set of public men, ranking in society like the Commissioners of Longitude could depute their important trust to so incompetent a pretender. And of all the transactions between them & John our scientific Mechanic there is none more [continued below]

difficult to reconcile to the common rules & dealings between man & man in the community than the present; for they could none of them be ignorant of the animosity between the Astronomer Royal & the Claimant; — with that knowledge, to expect his acquiescence in the Transfer or being placed in the hands of his sworn enemy, as they knew he would regard such a proposal (& as any man in the kingdom would, in his place) was an effrontery peculiar to uncontrolled power. There are cases indeed, in which a high minded man will trust himself to his foe, but this was not one of them. Besides it behoved them to recollect that in both the Trials at sea, though the 12th of Queen Anne was silent on the homeward voyage, yet he had handsomely volunteered to be equally responsible for the return, as for the outward run. This liberality of spirit was now met by the oppressive meanness of extending the legal trial from the probable duration of a Quest In-

been better worded. — John Harrison then told them, that he understood by this oath, that he was at this time to deliver the Drawings of the Timekeeper, with a description of them & the Principles of the Invention. That he was further to give to the best of his abilities Explanations by word of mouth & Experiments which might be demanded of him by the majority of the Gentlemen present. — Mr. Cockburne & Mr. Stephens both agreed, that certainly was the meaning of it; and said, they would attend at Mr. Harrison's when the Gentlemen met. — John Harrison then took the oath, & left, with the Secretary, the identical Drawings from which the Timekeeper was made, & a Description of those Drawings.

"On Wednesday the 14th of August the afore named six Gentlemen met at Mr. Harrison's, & the rev. Mr. Maskelyne also attended to receive the principles of the Invention. — They continued their meeting four days without interruption, and then adjourned to Tuesday the 20th & then again to Thursday the 22nd & they were going to adjourn to Monday the 26th but Mr. Harrison desired that they would please to remember the instructions from the Board. That they were to meet without interruption till they were satisfied. And therefore he hoped, if they were not satisfied, they would please to come again the next day till they were. — They then declared they were satisfied. — Mr. Harrison then desired they would please to give him a Certificate of that; as they might some of them be gone out of Town before the next Board met, & if they did not give him such Certificate, all that he had been doing might be to no purpose. — They all (excepting Mr. Ludlam) said it was quite proper; & that they were ready to sign any certificate,

-dia voyage to that of a twelvemonth though the adven-
-turer was now above fourscore. Exclusive of which, a con-
-sideration which should have been all powerful among
persons several of whom were of the sacred profession, was
that they could not deviate from the trial prescribed
by the original Act, or some fair equivalent for it, with-
-out contemning the immutable principles of equity,
which, in the general belief, are registered before the Eternal
Throne. — How could their answer remedy the transparent
protests through which such disconcerted physiognomies
& uneasy positions might have been contemplated, had
it been demanded — if they did not know that their authorized
report of the successful Timekeeper had been demolished
by a pamphlet of about 30 pages, to which their colleague,
with the talents of Oxford & Cambridge to support him, &
perhaps a smelling bottle from Lord Morton, had been found unan-
-swerable to reply? — Was there an individual at the Board
who would have ventured seriously to assert, that the best
(or the worst) part of the business, by which they
knew they violated propriety so much, was not to enable
Dr. Maskelyne to have his revenge for having been pinned
against the wall, figuratively speaking, like Captain Weas-
-el in Smollet's novel? ~~A George Card have said, with~~
~~the editor, Not much probable~~ The reason they put for-
-ward, to mask the battery, was that at Greenwich the in-
-struments were fixed & steady, but in London were affected
by the tremor occasioned by coaches. But they forgot this had

as they were quite satisfied. — But Mr. Ludlam persisted in it, that Mr. Harrison could not demand any such Certificate; but after a long debate, he agreed with the rest, to give a Certificate, which was as follows."

We, whose names are hereunto subscribed, do certify, that Mr. John Harrison has taken his Timekeeper to pieces in presence of us, & explained the Principles & Construction thereof, & every thing relative thereto, to our entire satisfaction. And that he also did to our satisfaction answer to every question proposed by us, or any of us, relative thereto. And that we have compared the Drawings of the same with the parts, & do find that they perfectly correspond."

Red Lion Square
Aug.t 22.nd 1765

Nevil Maskelyne
John Michell
Wm. Ludlam
John Bird
Tho.s Mudge
Wm. Matthews
Larcum Kendall

"On the 12.th of September the Commissioners of Longitude again met; and, after some time spent, Mr. Harrison sen.r was called in, & told they were quite satisfied with the explanation that had been given of the Timekeeper; & that they should give the Certificate when he had entered into an article with them to give up the three large machines, or Timekeepers; & that he shall, at the same time, give up the last, or small, Timekeeper. Mr. Wm. Harrison desired that the Board would please to reconsider what they had just mentioned, about the parting with the last Timekeeper. For as his intention was to make more, this would be of the greatest service to him, to have it in pieces to show the different parts to different workmen; & therefore if they would please to let it stay

nothing to do with did not apply to the quiet parts of the town; & they did not chuse to know that Mr. Graham had found his time with sufficient correctness in Fleet Street, the very focus of such a disadvantage. It was suggested to them, but in vain, that the Foundling Hospital, or the British Museum would be proper places.

Note ⊼ Δ p 286 Much of the contempt attaching to the character of Ferdinand 7.th (as we learn from the tour of a young American in Spain) arose from the Prime Minister & favourite, Godoy, a man of inordinate ambition, studiedly debasing the inclinations of the Prince, over whose education he could exercise an unlimited control. — If the transition is to the middle of the last century, Mr. Sharp, an English traveller, tells us that, at the age of fourteen, the principal employment of the Prince Royal of Naples, afterwards Ferdinand 4.th was playing jackets. — If this Monarch ~~[illegible]~~, though popular with the lower class, was never thought to do much honour to the crown, the specimen of his engagements, just quoted, will show it was in the usual course of events. — But however this inherent defect in monarchies might prevail on the continent, which was more its native soil, we should be unwilling to look for it in England; yet the youth of Edward 3.rd seems to have been in danger from the influence

with him; He would give them any security for it that they should think proper; & they would have it any Time when they should chuse to demand it. — Lord Egmont then told Mr. Harrison, they were determined that it should go to some-body else; but that Messrs. Harrison should have liberty to see it wherever they pleased. — It was then proposed that it should go to the Royal Observatory at Greenwich, & be under the care of Mr. Maskelyne. Mr. Harrison said, that would be very inconvenient; for if he wanted to see any thing in it, he should have to go so far. — It was then proposed that Mr. Bird should have it, but he declined it. — They then said that some Watch-maker should have it, if there was any that would make a new one; & Mr. Harrison was asked if he knew of any that would? To which he answered in the negative. — Lord Egmont then desired Mr. Harrison would name any watchmaker, & he should have it. Mr. Harrison then named Mr. Kendall, as he was his nearest neighbour. Mr. Kendall was then asked if he would take charge of the Timekeeper? To which he answered, that he had no objection. He was then asked if he would make one. He said he had no objection, provided they could agree upon terms. — It was then settled that Mr. Kendall should have it; & that the Commissioners would meet again in about six weeks, & then receive Mr. Kendall's proposal. — Mr. Harrison then said, this was the first instance, he believed, that ever was, of a mechanical machine being taken from the Inventor, & given to a Stranger, for him to make others by without the assistance of the inventor; & if they had but pleased to have let it stay with him, it would have been of the greatest service in getting the invention into the world. — Mr. Ludlam then said, you see, Gentlemen, the Inventor

of Queen & her favourite Mortimer, Earl of March, as that of George 3.rd was decidedly from the connection adverted to. — It is very remarkable, that in both these instances, the original beauty & innate superiority of the Princes defeated the purposed constraint, & burst the trammels both of petticoat & pantaloonned ambition.

assumptions of their manager, or their own linear missiveness,

Note at Δ p 289 After the final surrender & deportation of Buonaparte to St. Helena, ~~[illegible]~~ in 1815, this sentiment became very common on the Continent; & our countrymen found the benefit of it in travelling, by the respect with which they were treated — of which the ~~[illegible]~~ writer knew personal instances.

himself cannot make another without he has this by them. To which Mr. Mudge added; it is very strange that a man cannot make the same thing from the same thing, when he has made it from nothing. — Mr. Harrison finding that all arguments on his part were in vain, though they were for the good of the Public, gave up every thing; & told them, — that they might do just as they pleased.

In a day or two after he received the following Resolutions. On turning to the minutes of this Board (12th September) it will be found they are entirely silent on the most important particular ~~[illegible]~~ in the ~~[illegible]~~ Description thus preserved; which was, "that they would please to let the Timekeeper stay with him for the ~~[illegible]~~ present, on proper security being given; that he might have it in pieces to show to the different workmen he should employ; which he tells them (obviously enough) would "greatly facilitate the construction of others". — In a transaction like this, quite unfit to meet the public scrutiny, the parties who are thus seen to aggravate the bitterness of disappointment, to gratify the private pique & ostentation ~~[illegible]~~ are far from being entitled to the supposition that this most important feature in the business of the meeting, by accident ~~[illegible]~~ was omitted in their Secretary's report. — This most oppressive determination, in answer to the old man's entreaty, is left to be discovered solely by inference. They direct £7,500 being, with 2,500 before received, the first moiety of the reward, to be "paid him for making such discovery so soon as he shall have put together the said Watch (which is now in pieces) & delivered it, in a perfect state, into the custody

astronomical party were alike

~~All~~ his compeers

on ~~the~~

Federal — of which the ~~[illegible]~~ would

" of the above mentioned Mr. Larcum Kendal, who has
" undertaken to construct a Timekeeper upon the same
" principles; & as soon as he shall have assigned the pro
" perty thereof &c.

This manner of generalizing the unwitting treatment he received, by blending it with forms & pretences that may be passed over, would have prevented the deformity of the case from being cognizable; but "a bird
Sixty years after when the overwhelming self sufficiency of the ruthless Thane, who ~~[illegible]~~ sickened at the rays diffused by John Harrison eclipsing those of his own genius — when the overt acts of the ~~[illegible]~~ forgotten; they are resuscitated, they start into day to vindicate the self taught mechanician, who went so far beyond ~~det in a neighbouring nation the distinguished Mon. "Mr. gas bed is vain attempted.~~ throughout Europe.

This may be the proper place to observe the act of the 12.th of Queen Anne, which, from that date, till Lord Morton explained the pretended proceedings of the commissioners, under the 13.th George 3.d, had been invariably understood by all parties as has been shown, is wholly silent on the vested property of the machine, or ~~[illegible]~~ instruments, by which the discovery of the Longitude was to be effected. If this Parliamentary (& universal) manager, by his bill

of setting aside the three Machines, the Timekeeper was claimed by what was called "the reason of the thing;" it is manifest this assumption equally called on them to exercise their assumed right, with all possible forbearance; & particularly without prejudice to any service he might derive from it in the construction of other Timekeepers. Yet though common reason & humanity (at his age) required this moderation from them, not a particle of it will be found in the course adopted: which exhibits a flagitous ~~under a public pretext~~ ~~[illegible]~~ under a public plea. And points especially at the Manager, to whom Nature seems to have denied a few.

~~(as he tells them) I want~~

~~If instead of this threatening, browbeating, &, worst of all, treating him as if he had a design to impose on them (which it would be out of his power) they had stimulated his pride~~

ordered the Timekeeper, as well as the three prior machines, to be given up to the public, without the smallest regard to the consideration that, in a doubtful case, both parties should be heard; ~~the least he would have done in mercy towards the claimant, would have been to have allowed him [illegible] a fair opportunity to speak in a spirit of forbearance. But either he had dried him a few drops of "the milk of human kindness," or he was utterly incapable of discerning that the interests of the community, as it happened, were identified with those of the individual. For if there was a wish nearest the heart of John Harrison, after having achieved the discovery, it was — to see the Timekeepers brought into general use. And ~~in a mortal way~~, as he was unquestionably ~~[illegible]~~ the fittest judge, ~~under that influence, [illegible]~~ of the means to attain the desired object, had ~~Had~~ it been left to his management, ~~he (mentioning for he tells them) would have taken the course that all others do; that is, "I may have instructed workmen in the principles & practice, "which I should have been glad to have [illegible] had an op-"portunity of doing. But one." — [illegible] (which is the true way to deal with such spirits) he would have done all things possible, or — he would have "broken "the silver bowl, & gone to his long home." — Le Colbert, a Chatham, a Frederic 3.d or any other enlightened states-

-men, with the same purpose in view, on ascertaining this coincidence between the ruling passion of the man, & the advantages desired sought by the public would have thought the business done to their hand, & counted it as folly to interfere.

what can be thought of

~~would have been ought to acquit themselves of~~
~~circumstances so much in their favour,~~ Cromwell, who
excelled in employing the fittest men for the measures they
were set on, would have told the P. R. S. he wanted a horse
-whip for his stupidity, in pretending to benefit the country
by taking the business out of those hands best qualified
to forward it.

If such were the general merits of the question, ~~of~~
~~the details~~ — Lord Morton (for the Earl of Lymond
was comparatively a cypher, though he condescended to
be the vehicle of, & to enforce those resolutions which it
is extremely probable the manager brought ready pre
-pared to their meetings, as he had before done at the
separate commission) The Earl of Morton, we say, demanded
& received the identical drawings from which the Timekeeper
was fabricated; after which, as we said, the humble request of the Claimant
that they would let it stop with him as yet, for a very important
reason, he offering security, was refused. He was indeed allowed to
see it in the hands of another person, about half a mile off, which
when no other advantage could be had, was not to be overlooked;
but it was altogether trifling, when compared with those he ap
-plied for in vain; without the Manager or his spokesman conde
-scending to assign any reason for a step which nothing but con
summate ignorance engrafted on inhumanity could have dictated.

Like the taskmasters of old, he required him "to make "bricks without straw;" & with the same insulting demeanour "Ye are idle", said Pharaoh; & the East, like his prototype, certainly would "not minish aught from the tale of the bricks" —

to solve ~~to ascer~~

True British seaman, of whatever rank, is not never wanting in due ~~respect for~~ homage for

at all understan~~d~~

which was diametrically contrary to the public interest.

To cripple him as much as they could in the future exertions, which, at the same time, they called for from a man of 72, had a brutality in it which cannot be extenuated, but is consonant to the whole conduct of James Earl of Morton towards the sufferer. It may justly surprise the reader; that "the father of modern chronometry;" a man whom Newton would have placed at his right hand; should be trampled in the dust by a vain & coxcomical character, who had so unaccountably stepped into the chair in which the philosopher of all worlds had sat. How would it sound to any critic in the belles lettres, if he read that, on such a day, in the Lord Chamberlain's office, Dryden was directed to clean the shoes of Elkanah Settle?

How the naval Gentlemen could be borne away in subservicency to the nod of this despotic lubber is too problematical for the Author to hint, who believes that the the silver hairs of a well spent life. The kindest solution he can muster, supposes they either did not understand what they were called on to sanction; but the influence of the letters P.R.S. looks more like one of Circe's spells at this time than any thing resembling the deliberations of reasonable & humane men. — Dismissing them to their lobloll, however, the same courtesy can by no means be extended to the revered Mathematicians,

in Britain? — The Athenians understood virtue, but the Spartans practised it, as we learn from the well known story: but neither the comprehension of it, nor the practice are to be found in the present case.

of so much marvel;

whose dafeful remiscences must have told them old age had no where so honourable an abode as at Spartan. Were they insensible then to the reproach, had it been demanded of them, whether it had a more disgraceful one than in Britain? — Will not the imputation be as difficult to be got rid off, as was the ~~overwhelmed~~ fatal cloak to Hercules, when these Clergymen are seen abetting the ignorant brutality (for such we ~~again~~ repeat it was) which by the denial of facilities, so unnecessarily harrassed John Harrison at his advanced years; — after so long a course of labour, stimulated by the never failing assurances of the Commissioners of Longitude; now become of as much value as a ~~worthless~~ Birmingham token, bearing the impression of Cynthia & Endymion, to wit. or of John Montague Earl of Sandwich & K. G.

The Astronomer Royal having recently taken his seat under the commission, was not implicated in the tautological repugnance that made assurance doubly sure; which also (Desirous to do justice where we can) was the case with Lord Morton. But if D. Maskelyne was not infected with "the sin by which the angels fell", he would have extended the defensive ægis which his official situation armed him with, to screen the unhappy Claimant from such oppressive insolence. He understood mechanics ill, though the contrary was his hobby; but having been the only Commission

could leave him as ignorant

£300 minus, besides his expences and debts, his future prospects; either for achieving the Longitude, or lawn sleeves.

in consider with

remarked
first Lord

-er present when the Timekeeper was taken to pieces & ex-
-plained, it is difficult to suppose such an exhibition
as the manager (we say it in charity) of the great
importance of having the separate pieces to show to the
workmen. If he really profited, by insisting on his right to
be at the Disclosure, it behoved him to assist the Inven-
tor so opportunely in his need. He should have remem-
bered, that if the junior Harrison, when supported by Sir
John Lindsay, at Barbados, had refused to let his astrono-
mical observations be registered, he would have been
all his future prospects ruined.

The father & son objecting, that "they were first to
"swear they gave a full explanation; & then to swear they would
"give a further explanation;" sufficiently indicates the quar-
ter from whence so much trouble arose. This oath, & the
other proceedings, was drawn up by the Earl of Morton, an
overbearing pretender to business which he was incompetent to. It
reminds us of the oath of the oath with an et cetera, promul-
gated by the council of Charles I. at an ominous period, &
commented on by Hume for its absurdity. — The principal
of the Admiralty troubled himself about this confusion of dis-
tinctions in the terms of an oath, no more than would his boatswain; &
like Lord Peter, in Swift's Tale, would have
it, that the crust was good mutton. But though

in the presence of Almighty God (which the law supposes) to swear to wh
they had repeatedly

"he knew no distinction of persons, an
"deviated from the conduct that became him; for he

"different
-ary Christian

~~who seem to have demeaned towards their Lordships more like~~
~~the victims of law, the obnoxious, or Judiciaries, when he opens~~
~~his mouth, is immediately interrupted with "You are right, Sir"~~
Clergymen, whom the legislature, with the best intentions,
but unfortunately for the cause of scientific mechanics,
& ~~of navigation~~ the security of navigation, made Com-
-missioners of Longitude.

such an indifference may be passed overlooked by in a tarpaulin lord (as De Foe would have called him) who doubtless knew better how to beat the enemy than to palaver about scruples of conscience; it was to have been expected far otherwise from the University gentlemen, all of them of the sacred profession, whom it ill became to ~~avow~~ evince the same apathy toward ~~to~~ this ~~[illegible]~~ irreverent trifling with the sanctity of an oath; for such it certainly was, when two men were required, ~~[illegible]~~ & distinctly said they did not understand — in a case referring to particulars of which their knowledge was exclusive at the time. — Fielding records of his favourite character, Parson Adams, that though he paid all due deference & respect to his superiors on ordinary occasions, yet whenever the ~~Almighty~~ Supreme Being was invoked ~~[illegible]~~ would have reproved the greatest prince on earth, ~~[illegible]~~ if he held that Mr. Adams & Parson Adams were two ~~very~~ ~~[illegible]~~ persons". But, whatever they thought, the practice of this ~~[illegible]~~ minister was not that of the ~~Scottish Commissioners~~ ~~[illegible]~~ ~~Recovered to the Lords Equity & Motion.~~

"After this Board (September 12th.) Mr. Harrison was very desirous of getting his certificate; & as that now depended upon Mr. Seddon [the solicitor to the Admiralty] who was to draw up the writing, which he was to sign, Mr. William Harrison kept almost without interruption pressing Mr. Seddon, & Mr. Ibbetson, as this was to work which might as well be done in two days, as two years; and he at length, on Thursday the 17th. of October, received a letter from Mr. Ibbetson, acquainting

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William Mar

"him that every thing was ready, but that he could not with con
"venience be in Town on Friday, or Saturday, & therefore if Mon
"-day would do, he would meet him & Mr. Seddon any where. Mr.
"rison, in consequence, again saw Mr. Seddon & Mr. Kendall, & Mon
"-day the 21st., at 11 o'clock, was fixed on, to be at Mr. Seddon's. — At
"the appointed time, Messrs. Harrison, with the Timekeeper, went to
"Mr. Seddon's, as did also Mr. Ibbetson & Mr. Kendall. But Mr.
"Kendall objected to sign the writing which Mr. Seddon had drawn
"up; as it said, he had agreed, & did thereby bind himself, & di
"positively agree to make a Timekeeper. — This agreement Mr.
"Kendall said, he had not yet made, for they had not then rece
"ed his proposals; therefore he could not yet have agreed, &
"would sign no such writing. — Upon which they all went to the
"Admiralty, to acquaint Lord Egmont with it. — Mr. Seddon told
"his Lordship what had happened; & that the writing was so pre
"-pared, it could not be executed by one, or more persons,
"without the rest signed. And — at last, Mr. Harrison was
"told, that he must carry the Timekeeper back again, & that
"there should be another Board of Longitude on Monday the 28th

It cannot be supposed that a solicitor, employed by the Admiralty, could be so deficient in abilities as the awkward mistake in the document he prepared would imply; besides it is unnecessary to surmise so much to the disadvantage of Mr. Seddon: the blunder by which the Watchmaker was to sign a positive agreement, that he would make a Timekeeper, though no terms had been settled; a particular which Seddon must have been ignorant of; was characteristic of the Manager, who knew every thing, & spoiled every thing, & in whose instructions it must have been found: bein

~~Letter the Intercourse by which, under the 3. George 3. so often allowed to be had~~ George 3. without troubling himself about the expence

-sely, having probably seen enough: ~~for his own capacity might have been questioned, had I impeached that~~ of the Manager, ~~to be on his guard against the consequences of disputing or doubting his knowledge of legal forms.~~ ~~D. R. I was up to~~

For the time, ~~£2 sick, if taken at only 3 per cent on £245. had no solicitor would~~ which was above £30, ~~had no solicitor would~~ a sum John Harrison could ill spare — which no gentleman at the Board would have been sorry to find: and which the Manager ~~would~~ could no more have endured to lose, than the Jew that bought his cast off habiliments. As no solicitor would no great haste

it no better than the company ~~[illegible]~~ notwithstanding

unaccountably habitual to him: he would have set Mr. Kendal on without thinking of the price of his work, just in like manner as he had required the candidate to make more tools & more Timekeepers under the to conform to the 3d. But it seems the attorney, in reporting to Lord Egmont, had the prudence to take the blame tacitly to himself, for, woe betide him, if he had impeached the cleverest of all clever fellows, which he [illegible] the Manager, was up to the vanity of it.

The delay of above a month, respecting the writing, which might easily have been provided in a few hours, included the loss of the interest of the money for the time, & as no solicitor would like such an imputation to attach to his business, the conclusion we are left in is, that he was waiting for final instructions he was to receive from the Lord Morton Manager, who as he never relished that "Harrison should get all the money" (an exclamation which escaped him more than once) was in no hurry to set Mr. Seddon to work. — With reference to the season, he was probably in Scotland; not having attended at the last Board; which however made no difference to the poor Claimant. For, like Shenstone's Schoolmistress

E'en absent she the reins of pow'r doth hold.

Her directions must have been implicitly followed; & that too at the expense of a barbarity which if it were not extenuated by their practical ignorance of the subject, & their infatuation with their uncouth associate, who knew least of all, into what the three potential letters attached to his title might [illegible]

170 the Royal Society had apparently thought otherwise.

the Inventor, ~~[illegible]~~ by denying him

~~with their names with [illegible] to posterity.~~

"On the 28th. the Board met, & after some time
" time spent, they not agreeing with Mr. Kendall, Mr. Har-
" -rison was told, they were determined not to keep him
" any longer out of his money; & therefore would give him
" the certificate, & that he must leave the Timekeeper
" with them; & that they would for the present seal it up.
" — Mr. Harrison, as before, told them of the great incon-
" venience that would arise his parting with it, as it would
" very much retard the making of others. But all was to no
" purpose — they were determined to have it. — So Mr. Harrison
" gave it up, & signed the writing as they desired; upon which
" they gave him the following certificate."

This instrument being a matter of legal form, we omit, ex-
-cept the commencement, which was in these words. — "Whereas
" by an Act passed in the last session of Parliament, for explain
-ing & rendering more effectual two Acts &c" [the 12th. of Queen Anne, &
26th. George 2nd.]

Lord Morton thus ostensibly procured his bill to render
more effectual the two Acts specified; & yet the conduct of the
Board, under his direction, tended as effectually as possible to
counteract the further labours they required from [illegible],
without the least regard to his advanced age, over the small hour
before conceded. They had stript him of the drawings the Timekeeper
was made from; they refused to let him have it in pieces to
show to the workmen; & now he was debarred [illegible] all access whatever
to it, for reasons as prudential to [illegible] Lord Mor-

He says, in a printed case, that — "Far from forming a
"design to monopolize the emoluments profits to arise
"from making these Watches, after having received the
"promised bounty, he ever has, & ever will be ready on
"that condition to instruct any number of workmen; & he
"declares his opinion that a man of tolerable knowledge
"in common Watch-making, may by twelve months prac-
"tice, under his instruction, become perfectly able to make
"these; also that they may be furnished at prices within
"the reach of purchase for common mercantile use.

-tor as they would have been to John Gilpin. — At this Board, the proposals of Mr. Kendall, & those of Mr. Matthews, which were similar, were rejected without reserve; but with little reason, for those of the former were accepted the following year, or nothing could have been done. Lord Morton though he grasped at universal information wanted what was most to the present purpose, which was that the Timekeepers could not be made, in the first instance, but at an expence far exceeding other watch-work. — After the triumph of the discovery, John Harrison being duly impressed by the importance of the words "common & general "utility," in Queen Anne's Act, would have given his whole mind — his utmost energies to overcome this disadvantage; ~~to use the words of his son afterward, in a letter to Lord Kaith, "they could be afforded at price greatly beneath notice "in the output of common ordinary mechanism."~~

New paragraph

He was the only competent judge of the best measures to effect an object of such magnitude; in the prosecution of which, had it been unavoidable, being free from the natural vice of age, he would have sacrificed no small portion of the reward his enterprize had attained. But his enlarged and virtuous purpose, which would equally have redounded to his own fame & the public emolument, was defeated, after the first voyage, by the selfish spirit & uncontrolled manœuvres of the Lunar party, for three years wrapped in "darkness visible."

misfortune & that of the his country threw him under the unlimited control of

ill fate

supposed argument of the accomplished Thane need not be thought a caricature; as ~~it is~~ it is

— After the second voyage his ~~ill fortune threw him unfortunately into the power of~~ a pseudo philosopher, ~~who second scientific affectation provoked~~, whom it was his further ~~ill fortune~~ to have affronted two years before by not complying with the impossibilities he had prescribed.

Chap. 10.th

In the minutes of the Board, ~~28.th~~ 28th October, as in those of the 12.th September, we look in vain for such an entry as — "Mr. Harrison requested the Timekeeper might be left "with him; he giving proper security; as it would be of the "greatest service, he said, to facilitate the construction of "others." But the Board thought proper to refuse his request." — To which they might properly enough have subjoined — "at "the suggestion of the Earl of Morton, who told them, that the "more difficulties there were, the more the merit of the in-"-vention would appear, if it had any. Mr. Harrison's age "being mentioned, his Lordship replied, that was not the "question before them, but the public good".

This ~~may be thought a mere mistake, but it is~~ certain the resolutions the Commissioners came to ~~were in perfect~~ coincided ~~with~~ with such reasoning: further in accordance with which, the crooked policy which kept their refusal out of sight, though of the highest importance towards knowing

would have treated with no more ceremony than he did

his eye "in a fine frenzy rolling" had glanced at ——

endowments, which doubtless were to be found ~~amongst the Lo~~ at the Board

These non-officients

the bearing of the ~~business~~ question before them (had their minutes been published) cannot be made to lead to the supposition that it was inadvertent & undesigned: no man imputes an omission to accident, when he knows there were special causes for it. — How such an order of things could obtain; how it could be produced by the influence of an individual whom ~~his colleagues had a good right to call blockhead~~ as Swift ~~had~~ Betesworth, the Irish Lawyer, introduced in one of his satires; — how a "great vain man", the counterpart of him, whoever he was, whom the Bard of Avon, ~~had probably in his eye~~, when he gave us that forcible idea —

> Man's but a walking shadow, a poor player
> That struts & frets his hour upon the stage
> And then is heard no more.

How mental weakness can exert a superiority over stronger ~~endowments, as these are~~, being more the province of an enquirer into the history of the human mind, than of a Memoir writer, to explain, we hand it over to some gentleman so employed: who, if he is a Fellow of the Royal Society, will want no stimulant to his researches.

Passing by ~~the men of straw as the Tetricus and all them~~, without stopping to count noses, the minutes of the same date (the 28th) show Lord Morton ordering "the "written Explanations, & the Drawings of the said Watch, to be

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necessary an

work

The poor man being

—the Author would be the last person to detract from his eminence in his proper sphere;

mechanics

John Harrison having

"delivered to the Royal Astronomer, in order that he may
"cause them to be carefully copied, & afterwards Engraved &
"printed." — This outraged propriety, beyond precedent; when it is considered that the drawings required being transferred to the plates with all possible ex-actness, & whoever is conversant with such objects, will im-mediately say, that the person who designed & drew those out-lines was beyond comparison the fittest to superintend the , as he could remedy any oversight in the copying, or en-graving, with superior advantages. — Obvious as this was, the P. R. S. either never contemplated the discrepancy, or, touched on his proper side, disregarded it. — Dr. Maskelyne was undoubtedly of considerable abilities as an astronomer, but it was his weakness to desire to seem superior in ; just as Cardinal Richlieu wished to be thought a poet, & Sir Robert Walpole to excell in polite gallantry. Hence the supervision, so improperly taken from the legitimate quarter, though no way lucrative, was extremely gratifying to his foible. And, as was to be expected, not con-fining himself to the explanations he had receiv-ed, he attempted to elucidate the drawings further, but so mistakenly, that the Inventor is found complaining he had exposed him to the ridicule of foreigners.

Further on, these minutes inform us of "gives an acknowledgment, under his hand, that the three

works. All doubt on this point is precluded; for he tells us, he was in the habit of recurring to them, in ~~[illegible]~~ following up any new idea.

year; an interval of very near six months

"other Timekeepers have, at his request, been permitted to re-
"-main in his custody some time longer, he having promised
"to deliver them up, whenever he should receive directions so
"to do." — This lamentably shows how the Commissioners
completely misled by so incompetent a guide, were, as far
as in them lay, defeating the purpose of their institution.
For the prayer to let them remain by him, though but some
short time, manifestly denotes the importance he attached to
the having them at his elbow in the prosecution of his further
works. To deprive him of them therefore, instead of taking
adequate security, & allowing him to retain them during his
life, equally injured the public & the Inventor. to p 298 △ ~~But the
character, who thus would have gratified several of
the advantages to be expected from this rare genius, would lis-
ten to no compromise on the subject. These machines remai-
ned about half a year at Red Lion Square, but
were extremely injured by the improper mode of their remov-
al to Hampstead Hills, a circumstance which
this synopsis of facts never intended to notify, the
mettre et neat~~

From this time to the 25th of April in the following
year, a hiatus occurs in the transactions narrated. It would
appear, our Mechanician, deprived of the drawings the
Timekeeper had been made from, & denied every facility
the Commissioners could have granted, because his ill informed

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informed & envious opponent would have it so, did not, as a sailor would express it, lay the keel of another vessel on the stocks: his want of health also, at this juncture, must have been a serious impediment, however he might have been inclined: but with his wonted application to a subject which (except every seventh day) engrossed his whole mind, he had digested a plan for the Manufactory of Timekeepers — when, on the above date, he received a letter from Mr. Ibbetson informing him, by direction of the Commissioners, that a Board of Longitude would be held on the following day, at 11 o'clock, "to consider, amongst other things, of some matters "relating to the Timekeepers, invented by, &c." — William Harrison attended at the appointed time with the following letter.

"My Lords & Gentlemen

"Yesterday I received your Secre-
"-tary's notice of a Board of Longitude to be held this day. —
"I, as in duty bound, should certainly have waited on you,
"would my health have permitted, but as it will not, I hope
"you will excuse my personal attendance.

"It gives me the greatest concern to see my Invention
"neglected & lie dormant, as it now does; the utility of it is
"obvious to every body, therefore the present stagnation
"must give concern to every one that has the least
"thought or love for the safety of his fellow creatures.

"I am sorry there should have been the least misun-
"-derstanding between the honourable Board & me; and happy

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" should I be, if it was in my power to communicate my In-
" -vention in such a manner that mankind should imme-
" -diately receive the benefit from it; but from the nature of
" the Invention that being impossible, I should be glad there-
" -fore, if you will please to let me have your authority to
" bring it forward as fast as I can: which I shall be glad to do as
" follows.

First, if you will please to pay me down the sum of
£800, I will make two other Timekeepers, which, when done, shall
" be the property of the public: and upon the delivering of them on
" oath that they are as good as the former one already tried, I
" shall be paid the other sum of £10,000, the remaining half
" of my just reward. — Or, Secondly, if you will pay me down the
" said sum of £10,000, I shall be thereby enabled to carry
" into complete execution the making of these Timekeepers. — I
" will hire or build a house proper for the purpose; in which
" there shall be sufficient apartments for the different work-
" -men to be employed in the different branches of this business.
" — These workmen shall be instructed by me; & when they
" have properly learned, I will then take appren-
" -tices, to be instructed by them & myself. By this means the ma-
" -king of these Timekeepers will be formed into a manufactory,
" and neither the Invention, nor the manner of execution can
" ever be lost to the public. — It is to be understood that the
" Timekeeper [I am deprived of] shall be delivered up to me,
" for, by that means I can more readily & easily make others.

" These terms being expressed according to the letter
" of the Act (which says) "other Timekeepers of the same kind";
" and that "they shall be of sufficient
" correctness to determine the Longitude within half a degree of

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For gift

"a great circle, or thirty geographical miles, to the satisfac-
"-tion of the said Commissioners." — The execution of this, or
"any such agreement, will give the greatest pleasure & satis-
"-faction to

my Lords and Gentlemen
your most obedient
humble servant
John Harrison.

Red Lion Square
April 26th. 1766

He is evidently in an error here, in both these pro-
-posals, if they were to square with Lord Morton's Act. It
seemed unreasonable that he should be obliged to deduct the
cost of the two Timekeepers from the £7,500 he had recently
received, it will be remembered that there was no authority,
under that bill, for such an advance, which could only have
been from the £2,000 placed at the disposal of the Commission-
-ers for general purposes. Besides the goodness of the Timekeep-
-ers, when finished, could not be ascertained on oath; the Act
directing that they should be tried in such manner as the
Commissioners thought fitting.

It may be observed, that if these Timekeepers had
been proceeded with, they would have proved no more than
that, the Inventor could make one like another, as he had before
said; but to reduce the price was become the desideratum,
as £400 was too much for ordinary purposes, & Mr. Kendall
had 450. After his successful copy of the Chairmaker's Time-

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of

could not

his Lordship had again called into action his legislative

keeper, he attempted, by simplifying the work, in another he made, to reduce the price to £ and succeeded to a certain degree: but the Watch so modified did not approach the correctness of the original. — The Inventor was the only person qualified to overcome this difficulty; & the second proposal above gives us his plan for that purpose. Had the tautological pledge been redeemed, assuredly he would have realized the undertaking here chalked out. In following it up, he must probably have sunk near half his hard earned reward, principally in wages to the workmen before the sale of the Timekeepers (to the Admiralty in the first instance) could have ~~[illegible]~~ recompenced him. But no man in his circumstances was more jealous of his honour; he could not endure to hear it said, his Invention was of more curiosity than use: Unhappily by his being handed over to the mental imbecility & petty revenge after adverted to here, so important a national object, as it was at that period, was frustrated. The measure Lord Morton claimed as his own was a mile stone to the ascending powers of such a plan. ~~Contrary to what our Mechanics & incorrectly suppose~~, The Commissioners ~~had no power~~, under this innovation on Queen Ann's Act, ~~to~~ ~~[illegible]~~ give him an order for the remaining £10,000 till two, or more Timekeepers, should be made & tried, unless ~~they again had recourse to Parliament for a bill to explain, amend & relax, on the~~

~~his~~ powers functions to amend, explain & alter, his former explanations, alterations & amendments, which it is not recorded he was disposed to compromise. It would have been expecting Sangrado to write against phlebotomy & aqua tepida. Neither could it be supposed that the majority at the Board would have put so great an affront on the Manager, as it would have been, to resort to Parliament without his sanction. Thousands of lives & millions of property were indeed involved in the question; but either from ignorance, or, however it was, the Commissioners felt no more compunction for the obstacles (some of them of a barbarian cast) stone) described as, that the Spanish Hippocrates did, "the number of deaths, by which it might have been supposed that the plague raged at Valladolid."

mise, &, no wonder, for it

~~it to be expected that~~

for

~~his~~ powers June
after, his former explanat
-ments, which it is not reco
~~promise. It~~ it would have
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tone) described arose, that
"the number of deaths, by w
"-posed that the plague a

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